

**BASIC LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE**

**3.7 LIFELINE PROGRAM**

(N)

**3.7.1 General**

- A. The Lifeline Program is a telephone assistance program designed to make telephone service available at reduced rates to eligible residential customers.
- B. Eligible customers will receive a credit not to exceed the current federally-mandated subscriber line charge (End User Common Line Charge). The credit will be applied to basic local exchange access service.
- C. The Lifeline Program reduction to basic local exchange access service shall apply only to residential one-party service.
- D. Nothing in this section shall prohibit a customer who is otherwise eligible for the Lifeline Program from obtaining and using telecommunications equipment and services designed to aid such customer in utilizing qualifying telecommunications services.
- E. The Lifeline Program rate reduction does not apply to service connection charges, except that customers eligible for the Link Up America program will receive a reduction on applicable service connection services, as set forth in Section 4.8 of this tariff.
- F. The Lifeline Program rate will not be available on a retroactive basis.

(N)

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JUN 13 1996

*Charles W. Slaughter*  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## BASIC LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

### 3.7 LIFELINE PROGRAM (Cont'd)

(N)

#### 3.7.2 Eligibility Requirements

- A. The discounted service will be provided for one (1) telephone line per household, at the subscriber's principal place of residence. Individuals who meet the following four (4) criteria are eligible for Lifeline Assistance.
  - (1) The applicant cannot be a dependent as defined by the Federal Income Tax Code, under the age of sixty (60);
  - (2) The applicant is head of household;
  - (3) The applicant must have only one (1) local exchange access line to his/her residential premises or dwelling place; and
  - (4) Provide proof of income eligibility.
- B. Verification of the first two (2) requirements will be accomplished through self-certification.
- C. The Cooperative will verify the third (3rd) and fourth (4th) requirements. A service order to establish the applicant's telephone service will not be issued until proof of the applicant's income level has been obtained and verified. As proof of income eligibility, an applicant can: 1) show that he/she is currently a recipient of benefits under one (1) of several specified public assistance programs; or 2) demonstrate poverty level income.

(N)

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*Charles W. [Signature]*  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

# BASIC LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

## 3.7 LIFELINE PROGRAM (Cont'd)

(N)

### 3.7.2 Eligibility Requirements (Cont'd)

#### C. (Cont'd)

The process to be followed under each of these alternatives is outlined as follows:

#### (1) Participation in Public Assistance Programs:

##### a. The specified programs are as follows:

- Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC)
- Food Stamps
- Home Energy Assistance Programs (HEAP)
- Medical Assistance Program (MAP)
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Women, Infants and Children (WIC)

##### b. Individuals choosing this option are required to deliver or mail to the Cooperative a photocopy of a valid identification card or of the appropriate documents that are issued to them by the agency administering the program.

(N)

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*[Signature]*  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**BASIC LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE**

**3.7 LIFELINE PROGRAM (Cont'd)**

(N)

**3.7.2 Eligibility Requirements (Cont'd)**

**C. (Cont'd)**

**(2) Applicants who demonstrate poverty level income either:**

- (a) As determined by the individual's Federal income tax return. Individuals choosing this option are required to obtain and deliver or mail to the Cooperative a photocopy of their most recent U.S. Individual Tax Return (Form 1040, 1040A, or 1040EZ) that was submitted to the Internal Revenue Service. The Cooperative will look at the number of exemptions reported to determine the size of the family unit and the dollar amount reported on the adjusted gross income line. These figures will then be compared to current federal poverty income level guideline tables, as published in the Federal Register, to determine if the applicant meets the income criteria.
- (b) Fixed income, retired or other subscribers not required to file an individual tax return (Form 1040, Form 1040A or 1040EZ) should write a letter to the Cooperative with a written statement to that effect and a statement that they qualify for the Lifeline Program. The Cooperative may choose to verify this information with a State or Federal agency before determining the applicant's eligibility.

(N)

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*Richard W. Brantley*  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



**BASIC LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE**

**3.7 LIFELINE PROGRAM (Cont'd)**

(N)

**3.7.3 Restrictions**

- A. The Lifeline Program rate will only be provided for service to the applicant's principal residence or dwelling.

**3.7.4 Recertification**

- A. Customers must recertify on an annual basis that they continue to qualify for the discounted service.

**3.7.5 Credit and Collection**

A. Credit References

The credit verification procedures used for all applicants who apply for service with the Cooperative will also be used for applicants who apply for service under the Lifeline Program.

B. Deposits

Deposit requirements will be waived for all applicants who qualify for Lifeline Service, as long as the applicants continue to qualify for Lifeline Service.

(N)

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*Charles W. Bosterton*  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## BASIC LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

### 3.7 LIFELINE PROGRAM (Cont'd)

(N)

#### 3.7.6 Service Connection Charges

- A. Service charges do not apply to eligible customers with existing residential access line service when they convert to the Lifeline Program.
- B. Service Connection Charges will apply when:
  - (1) Existing eligible residential local exchange access service customers also convert to a different grade of eligible residential service and/or optional calling services at the time the Lifeline Program billing is initiated.
  - (2) A customer receiving Lifeline Program billing voluntarily elects to convert to telephone service arrangements which preclude Lifeline Program eligibility.
  - (3) New residential applicants (those without existing local exchange access service) eligible for the Lifeline Program will be subject to applicable service connection charges, including the Link Up America Program, as specified in Section IV of this Tariff.
- C. Any subsequent moves or changes after the initial connection to the Lifeline Program will be subject to the applicable service charges as outlined in Section IV of this Tariff.

(N)

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*Charles W. Davidson*  
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

## BASIC LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

### 3.1 GENERAL

#### A. Description and Area of Operations

Sandhill Telephone Cooperative, Inc. (Cooperative) is a public utility providing telecommunications service in the areas certificated to the Cooperative by the Public Service Commission of South Carolina.

Headquarters for the Cooperative are located at P.O. Box 519, 122 S. Main Street, Jefferson, South Carolina 29718. Cooperative representatives may be contacted at (803) 658-3434.

The Cooperative is largely financed by the Rural Utilities Service (RUS), and provides one-party service throughout its service area according to an area coverage design approved by the RUS.

#### Areas of Operation

<u>Exchange</u>	<u>NPA-NXX</u>	<u>County</u>	
McBee	335	Chesterfield	
Jefferson	658	Chesterfield	
Ruby	634	Chesterfield	
Chesterfield	623, 622	Chesterfield	(T)
Pageland	672, 675	Chesterfield	(T)
Patrick	498	Chesterfield	
Bethune	334	Kershaw	

#### B. Exchange service areas are identified on maps filed at the end of this Section.

Map for McBee	Separate page
Map for Jefferson	Separate page
Map for Ruby	Separate page
Map for Chestefield	Separate page
Map for Pageland	Separate page
Map for Patrick	Separate page
Map for Bethune	Separate page

#### C. The rates for service and equipment and not specifically shown in this section are presented in other sections of this Tariff.

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*Gary E. Walsh*  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**BASIC LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE**

**3.2 MONTHLY EXCHANGE RATES**

A. Monthly exchange rates are authorized by the Public Service Commission of South Carolina and are shown as follows:

**3.2.1 Flat Rate Service**

**Chesterfield Exchange\***

		Tariff Code	
Residence:			
1 party access charge	\$10.80	R7	(R)
(.00 Cheraw EAS)	.00		
	10.80		
Business:			
1 party access charge	\$ 21.60	C1	
(.00 Cheraw EAS)	.00		
	21.60		
Public Telephone Access Service	21.60	CN	
(.00 Cheraw EAS)	.00		
	21.60		
Key system lines	21.60	KT	
(.00 Cheraw EAS)	.00		
	21.60		
PBX lines	21.60	P1	(R)
(.00 Cheraw EAS)	.00		
	21.60		

**Jefferson Exchange\***

Residence:		
1 party access charge	\$ 10.80	R1
Business:		
1 party access charge	\$ 21.60	B1
Public Telephone Access Service	21.60	CM
Key system lines	21.60	KK
PBX lines	21.60	PA

\* Only one party service offered for business or residence.

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APR 04 2007

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BY: President

Effective: Upon Approval of  
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**BASIC LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE****3.2 MONTHLY EXCHANGE RATES (Cont'd)****3.2.1 Flat Rate Service (Cont'd)****McBee Exchange\***

## Residence:

1 party access charge  
(.00 Hrtv. EAS)

\$ 10.80

R2

(R)

.00

10.80

## Business:

1 party access charge  
(.00 Hrtv.EAS)

\$ 21.60

B2

.00

21.60

## Public Telephone Access Service

(.00 Hrtv. EAS)

21.60

CF

.00

21.60

## Key system lines

(.00 Hrtv.EAS)

21.60

KL

.00

21.60

## PBX lines

(.00 Hrtv.EAS)

21.60

P6

(R)

.00

21.60

\* Only one party service offered for business or residence.

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## BASIC LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

3.2 MONTHLY EXCHANGE RATES (Cont'd)

## 3.2.1 Flat Rate Service (Cont'd)

Tariff  
CodeBethune Exchange\*

## Residence:

1 party access charge  
(.00 Camden EAS)

\$ 10.80

R4

(R)

.00

10.80

## Business:

1 party access charge  
(.00 Camden EAS)

\$ 21.60

B5

.00

21.60

Public Telephone Access Service  
(.00 Camden EAS)

21.60

CE

.00

21.60

Key system lines  
(.00 Camden EAS)

21.60

KF

.00

21.60

PBX lines  
(.00 Camden EAS)

21.60

PH

(R)

.00

21.60

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\* Only one party service offered for business or residence.

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**BASIC LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE**

**3.2 MONTHLY EXCHANGE RATES (Cont'd)**

**3.2.1 Flat Rate Service (Cont'd)**

**Pageland Exchange\***

Residence:

1 party access charge

\$ 10.80

Tariff  
Code

R1

Business:

1 party access charge

\$ 21.60

B1

Public Telephone Access Service

21.60

CM

Key system lines

21.60

KK

PBX lines

21.60

PA

**Patrick Exchange\***

Residence:

1 party access charge

\$ 10.80

R3

(R)

(.00 Cheraw EAS; .00 Hrtv. EAS)

.00

10.80

Business:

1 party access charge

\$ 21.60

B3

(.00 Cheraw EAS; .00 Hrtv.EAS)

.00

21.60

Public Telephone Access Service

21.60

CQ

(.00 Cheraw EAS; .00 Hrtv EAS)

.00

21.60

Key system lines

21.60

KI

(.00 Cheraw EAS; .00 Hrtv EAS)

.00

21.60

PBX lines

21.60

(R)

(.00 Cheraw EAS; .00 Hrtv EAS)

.00

21.60

**Ruby Exchange\***

Residence:

1 party access charge

\$ 10.80

R1

Business:

1 party access charge

\$ 21.60

B1

Public Telephone Access Service

21.60

CM

Key system lines

21.60

KK

PBX lines

21.60

PA

\* Only one party service offered for business or residence.

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## BASIC LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

## 3.2.2 LOCAL EXCEPTIONS

(T)

50% discount on one (1) party residence access and EAS charges, as set forth in Section 3.2.1, for one (1) line only, one (1) location only.

## A. Churches:

<u>Exchanges</u>	<u>Tariff Code</u>
McBee	C6
Patrick	C7
Jefferson	C8
Pageland	C8
Bethune	C5
Ruby	C8
Chesterfield	DH

## B. Temporary suspension of service.

<u>Exchanges</u>	<u>Tariff Code</u>
McBee	V6
Patrick	V7
Jefferson	V5
Pageland	V5
Bethune	VY
Ruby	V5
Chesterfield	V8

<u>Exchanges</u>	<u>Tariff Code</u>
McBee	V2
Patrick	V3
Jefferson	V1
Pageland	V1
Bethune	VZ
Ruby	V1
Chesterfield	V4

## C. Chesterfield reduced rate.

<u>Exchange</u>	<u>Tariff Code</u>
Chesterfield	CB

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## BASIC LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

3.2.3 LOCAL CALLING AREAS

The rates specified in Section 3.2.1 entitle customers to access all stations bearing the central office designations of additional exchanges as shown below. The local calling area of the exchanges in the left hand column also includes the exchanges listed in the right hand column.

<u>Exchanges</u>	<u>Additional Exchanges</u>
Jefferson	Bethune, Chesterfield, McBee, Pageland, Patrick, Ruby
McBee	Bethune, Chesterfield, Hartsville, Jefferson, Pageland, Patrick, Ruby
Ruby	Bethune, Chesterfield, Jefferson, McBee, Pageland, Patrick
Chesterfield	Bethune, Cheraw, Jefferson, McBee, Pageland, Patrick, Ruby
Bethune	Chesterfield, Jefferson, McBee, Pageland, Patrick, Ruby, Camden
Pageland	Bethune, Chesterfield, Jefferson, McBee, Patrick, Ruby
Patrick	Bethune, Cheraw, Chesterfield, Hartsville, Jefferson, McBee, Pageland, Ruby

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*Paul W. Hamilton*  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**BASIC LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE**

**3.2.4 EXCHANGE MILEAGE CHARGES**

- A. No exchange mileage shall apply within the Exchange Service area.
- B. No zone charges shall apply within the Exchange Service area.

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ED 10

*Charles W. Robertson*  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Issued: February 1, 1996  
BY: President

Effective: Upon Approval of  
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**SANDHILL TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE, INC. (SAC 240546)**

**ATTACHMENT - LINE 3026**

**ATTACHMENT REDACTED IN ENTIRETY**